



1999 WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS

Volume LX No. 27 Date: October 5, 1999

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8:00 A.M. MONDAY

Temperatures averaged much above normal. Extremes were 81 at Flemington and Canoe Brook on the 29th and 35 degrees at Charlotteburg on the 1st. Weekly rainfall averaged 1.14 inches North, 0.63 inches Central, and 0.54 inches South. The heaviest 24 hour total was 1.10 inches at Charlotteburg on the 29th to the 30th.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 89 percent North, 77 percent Central and 57 percent South. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 62 degrees North, 63 degrees Central and 62 degrees South.

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				1/		
		Total	Depart.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Depart.*	Total	Depart.*	
	- Inches -			- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -		Percent
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	1.03	26.98	-1.92	76	42	62.	5	3064	428	95
Canoe Brook	1.41	31.06	.66	81	41	65.	8	3435	783	97
Charlotteburg	1.15	29.26	-1.49	80	35	59.	4	2561	467	91
Flemington	.99	26.37	-2.62	81	41	63.	5	3193	474	85
Long Valley				Data Not Available						
Newton				Data Not Available						
CENTRAL										
Freehold				Data Not Available						
Long Branch	.60	22.69	-5.79	74	45	64.	4	3163	313	68
New Brunswick	.65	27.67	-.95	80	43	64.	4	3366	330	89
Pemberton	.78	27.77	-1.02	80	39	64.	4	3465	487	78
Toms River	.47	14.54	-14.62	79	43	65.	6	3186	338	61
Trenton	.63	31.57	4.52	80	41	63.	3	3115	-46	82
SOUTH										
A.C. Marina	.67	24.38	.24	76	52	67.	5	3369	434	62
Cape May C.H.	.57	17.56	-7.73	79	48	67.	4	3431	511	42
Downstown	.46	26.57	.12	80	44	66.	5	3412	228	62
Hammonton	.44	25.45	-2.38	79	42	65.	5	3383	234	50

Pomona	.63	22.07	-3.00	80	44	67.	7	3374	449	63
Seabrook	.44	30.02	4.46	80	46	66.	5	3586	381	69
Woodstown	.00	35.46	8.18	79	42	66.	N/A	3721	N/A	N/A

*Departure from normal.

1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.

2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Field Crops

Days suitable for field work averaged six days. Irrigation water supply is adequate in most areas. Planting of small grains and cover crops continued across the state. Harvest of grain corn is underway with well below average yields being reported. Corn silage is being harvested in the northern counties and low yields and poor quality have been reported. Several silage fields will not be harvested due to the high levels of nitrogen in the plant stalks. Early planted soybeans are in poor condition while the late planted crop is in fair condition. Soybean plants in South Jersey have started to drop leaves. Many soybean farmers are concerned about the consequences of having an early frost because the progress of the crop was significantly delayed during the dry summer months. The third cutting of alfalfa and other hay is underway and the crop has been rated between good and fair.

Vegetables, Fruits and Berries

Harvest of summer vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, snap beans, eggplant, escarole, green beans and squash continued. Most of the remaining tomato, pepper and snap bean fields are in fair condition. Harvest of fall cabbage, lettuce and spinach is also underway and their condition is good in most areas. Some fall vegetable fields were washed out by the heavy rains brought by Floyd. The production of several vegetables has been reduced by excess moisture related problems such as diseases and insects. Sweet potato harvest is underway and the overall quality is good, although some farmers have reported smaller than usual sizes. Harvest of apples is in full swing and good quality has been reported. Harvest of cranberries is also underway and the reported condition is good.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

Allentown
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.

Atlantic City
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.

New York City
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.

Philadelphia
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.